

The Forgetful Hearer?

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." -- James 1:22-25

By Bob West

ual aids which enhances the presentations. We can even get high-quality video or audio reproductions of the lessons hear them again and review them at our leisure. We have no shortage of opportunities to hear the word.

But no amount of *hearing* will substitute for *doing*. We have not provided the above-mentioned conveniences just for our comfort or even just for our hearing the Word. The sermons, lessons and opportunities for hearing are provided to make us better people and consequently glorify our Lord. But this can only be done if we *put into practice* the suggestions and exhortations involved in all of the lessons. Let us all determine not to be "forgetful hearers," but *doers* of the work which so badly needs to be done.



Hearing the word of God is vitally important. We are all blessed to live in a time of relative affluence which enables us to provide for ourselves comfortable transportation, on smooth roadways, to come sit in comfortable pews, and listen to the gospel aided by a sound system adjusted to a comfortable level and see hi-tech vis-

The Auburn Beacon



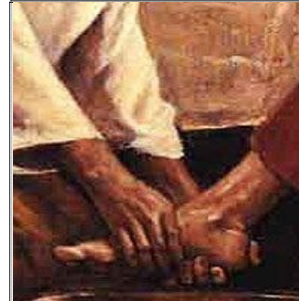
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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Learning to Yield to One Another

By Tom Edwards



Thought to Ponder

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify.
A never dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.
To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage,
To do my Master's will.

Let me first of all say that in matters of the faith -- such as in God's plan of salvation, the elements to be used for the Lord's Supper, or the proper view toward stealing, for examples -- there is no room for compromise; but in some matters of indifference, one must be willing and able to compromise at times.

I read a little illustration recently about two children who had been in a squabble. The mother, trying to put an end to their commotion, said, "Hush! You two children are always quarreling. Why can't you agree once in a while?" In response, her wrangling son explained, "We do agree, Mama. Joan wants the largest piece of cake and so do I."

Undoubtedly, Joan and her brother were in need of learning a lesson about compromise -- to have the willingness to give in to the other's wishes.

I've often heard people say to others, "You always must have your own way." When the real irony to this is that those who say such are usually totally unaware of all the times in which that person had respectfully bowed to the whims, plans, or desires of others. I would imagine this

Paul strove to be "...all things to all men" that he might "...by all means save some" **(1 Cor. 9:19-23)**. In other words, as he states in the beginning of this passage: "...though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more."

often happens in the marriage relationship --but how often is it overlooked?

We must realize that it isn't the nature of a true Christian to always be "demanding one's rights" or to be inflexible in all matters of indifference. Jesus taught this principle when He said, "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him **two**" **(Matt. 5:41)**. As we come to understand the background for this statement, we are made aware that the Romans, of whom the Jews were then in subjugation (and often with loathing and great reluctance), had the right, by law, to

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Classes this Week

**Kid's Class at the Building at 5:15
All Are Invited**

Friday Night 1st-8th grade class at the Pender's from 6-8 PM

Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Ruby Johnson (Erica Seymore's Grandmother)
Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Dave and Betty Bradford
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)
Johnny Adrian (Friend of Sullivan's)	Lori Holloway
Chick Wade	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Mike Morrow's Mom

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Chris Davis
Erin Zeanah
Audra Hargett
Jennifer Barbero
Ben Coulston
Chris Thompson
Melanie Mitchell
Sharon Lim
Jared Ramsey

Our prayers are with you that you will be a light for the Lord wherever you go.

News and Notes

Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller and Nicole Pender.

Larry will in a Meeting at the Moody church in the Birmingham area May 23-26.

The Spanish church will be having a meeting June 6-9.

The LaGrange church will have a meeting with Greg Gwin June 6-11.

Please share our website with others! One way to do this is to give me e-mail addresses for the e-mail bulletin.

Please share our audio CD's, Bulletins, and Outlines with others. Today's sermons will be available on CD immediately after services.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
E-mail:
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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command a Jew to perform certain tasks, such as to carry the Roman's military baggage upon demand. Jesus, on the other hand, wanted His people to be willing to go beyond the bare essentials of what the law demanded of them: He wanted them to be willing to go "the extra mile"; and, by doing this, the Jew would also show by his actions that he was being compelled by a power beyond that of the Roman law; rather, he was being motivated by a power of love -- a power which also prompted humble servitude and continual faithfulness toward that ultimate object of the Christian's obedience, the Almighty God Himself.

In similar fashion, Jesus instructed, "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also" (**Matt. 5:4**). Again, knowing the historical and cultural background of this will help us to better understand the application; and that was that, generally speaking, the Jew -- even the poorest of them -- would have more than one change of "shirt" ("tunic" or inner garment); but only one "coat" ("cloak" or outer garment); and, according to the law, this coat could not be kept over night by another who had received it as a surety or pledge. **Exodus 22:26, 27** reads, "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets, for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear him, for I am gracious." So, by right, this cloak could not be permanently taken away; but Jesus is saying that the Christian needs to be willing to forgo some of his rights -- to be able to give up at times even those things which both God's Law and man's would allow.

This certainly was the attitude of Paul. He said, "Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble" (**1 Cor. 8:13**). The apostle was willing to give up that which he technically had the right to, lest it caused another to fall.

One way in learning to compromise in matters of indifference is by striving to truly apply what Paul writes in **Philippians 2:3**: "...let each of you regard one another as more important than himself."

If we are esteeming one another the way God's word demands, it should be much easier to yield to another's plan, wishes, or appeals, out of deference for that individual. For we are to "not merely look out for our own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (v. 4); and "...we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let us each please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me'" (**Rom. 15:1-3**).

Paul strove to be "...all things to all men" that he might "...by all means save some" (**1 Cor. 9:19-23**). In other words, as he states in the beginning of this passage: "...though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more."

But this certainly does not mean that Paul was ever a man-pleaser in the sense of compromising the truth of God's word, for to this he was adamantly opposed (**Gal. 1:10; 2:5**).

We need to remember, as someone once said, real "joy" means putting...

Jesus first,

Others second, and

Yourself last.

Even Jesus did not come into this world to be served, but rather to serve -- and to give His life as a ransom for all (**Matt. 20:28**). May we each strive to follow in His footsteps, to never compromise in matters of faith; but to be able to not always be so insistent on our own ways in matters of indifference. For as Christians, we are to "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (**Rom. 12:18**). And as Paul also writes to the Ephesians, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (**Eph. 4:1-3**).

Yes, this is the way in which we need to yield to one another.



Fight Boredom!

By Stephen Rouse

bore (bôr)- To make weary by being dull, repetitive, or tedious.

It's summertime. Some people have jobs. Some people have camp. But, when stuff isn't going on, most people just get *bored*. I have been bored so many times that once, on a whim, I was moved to write a song about it (not sure where it is, though). But I digress. I come here to urge you to consider this:

As Christians, we DO NOT have the right to be bored.

That hurts to think about. But guess what? There's more work here to do than can EVER be done. Consider these areas:

- **Preaching to the lost** - Guys, there are hundreds, if not thousands of people that we come into contact with on a regular basis that NEED, above all else, to hear about what this life is really about. Who have you talked to in the last week about Christ? How many were Christians? How many were of the lost? Preaching the Word is not an option. Challenge yourself.
- **Studying God's Word** - How many hours have you spent staring at a TV/computer screen this summer? How many hours have you spent being enriched by God's Word? And not just because you were at Church services or at camp Bible classes. Because you wanted to. Because "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ", or because you think: "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." Challenge yourself.

It has been said that "An idle (bored) mind is the devil's workshop." If we're filling our lives with spiritual things and dwelling on them, Satan will have much less of a chance to tempt us and bring us down.

- **Praying to God** - And not just at mealtimes or in the morning or when you go to bed. If you had written all the prayers you've said to God this week, how many pages would it fill? Not that length is everything, but how much are we pouring our heart out to our Creator? And not just asking for help or thanking Him. Those come quite naturally. How about just praising Him for as long as you can without repeating yourself? The

psalmist claims: "Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances." Challenge yourself.

Guys, with SO much to do, whether it's preaching Christ, encouraging one another, praying, studying, praising God, singing, or any number of spiritual activities, we just DON'T have time to be BORED.

It has been said that "An idle (bored) mind is the devil's workshop." If we're filling our lives with spiritual things and dwelling on them, Satan will have much less of a chance to tempt us and bring us down.

So, in conclusion, DON'T BE BORED. If I ever tell you I'm bored, do please reprimand me, because I fall short here. Alot. Encourage each other. Let's serve the Lord together. Let's go to Heaven together. We don't know how much time we have: live each day like it's your last.

"But encourage one another day after day, so long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end." -**Hebrews 3:13-14**

